

moved to Pasadena, CA, where he grew up and attended Pasadena public schools. As a young adult he attended Pasadena City College and though his education was interrupted by his service in the military, he continued his academic pursuits at USC and completed his BA degree from the University of Omaha.

Mr. Hickambottom served in the U.S. Army during World War II and at 19 years old was one of the youngest first sergeants in Europe. He was recalled by the Army during the Korean war and commissioned as a second lieutenant. After 20 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1967 with the rank of major. During his career, he was awarded many decorations including twice receiving the Medal for Outstanding Service and three times the Army Commendation Medal. Elbie was a past commander of the Pasadena chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars and a recipient of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Patriot of the Year Award.

After Elbie's military retirement, he joined the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency in 1967 where he served as director of Relocation and Property Management, managing programs that assisted displaced families and small businesses. He subsequently worked as senior vice president of Municipal Services, Inc. a private redevelopment consulting firm from which he retired in 1985.

In 1979 Mr. Hickambottom was elected to the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education, where he served until he retired from the board in 1994. A champion for excellence in education and a strong voice for improving academic achievement for all students, particularly for disadvantaged and minority students, Elbie was often the conscience of the school board. He was an active member of the California Coalition of Black School Board Members, where his tenure included holding office on the Executive Board.

A dedicated community volunteer, Elbie participated in many organizations, including the NAACP, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, Young and Healthy, the Pasadena Commission on Children and Youth, Project Day, ROTC, and various other civic groups.

Elbie is survived by his wife of 52 years, Dolores, his children, Ann Marie, Elbie Jr., Leslie and John, sisters Verda Arnold and Wilmer Lane, niece Robin Foster, sister-in-law Agnes Brumfield, two brothers-in-law, Joseph Arceneaux and Oscar Dupre II, and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to Elbie's family and friends, as well as extend my heartfelt thanks for his many contributions to the community. Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., will be missed by all who knew him.

KRISTY WICKLIFF AND E9-1-1
INSTITUTE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts made by the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute for their lasting efforts to improve our Nation's 9-1-1 system. The E9-1-1 Institute is committed to educating and in-

forming citizens of the vital role the 9-1-1 service plays in our communities. Since 1968, 9-1-1 has been a means in which to report emergencies. Today, 9-1-1 is a key component to saving lives and property.

The E9-1-1 Institute has included every level of government, corporations large and small in addition to government policy makers, to convey the significance of the 9-1-1 service to all Americans. The institute continues to work very hard to show that every citizen of this country plays a vital role in making this system successful.

The outstanding efforts of E9-1-1 are most evident in a recent event in my district. I am honored to acknowledge Kristy Wickliff a resident of Southlake, Texas, who is being honored by the E9-1-1 Institute for the heroic act of saving her father's life in April of 2003. Kristy, age five at the time, successfully called 9-1-1 and then proceeded to the medicine cabinet where she was able to obtain and administer medication to her father while he was suffering from diabetic shock. Miss Wickliff will receive the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute's "Citizen in Action" Award on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.

If it were not for the E9-1-1 Institute's dedication to improving the 9-1-1 system or their commitment to education, our ability to save lives and property would be greatly hindered by a lack of communication.

The 9-1-1 service is a necessary part of our daily lives. Like those who have used the service in a time of crisis, the individuals who work to make 9-1-1 a better system deserve to be honored.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the lengthy debate over campaign finance reform, some of us warned that appearances can be deceiving. The McCain-Feingold bill was supposed to empower ordinary voters, who were evidently thought incapable of exercising their own reason during election campaigns. The power shift has actually been to the unelected media and unaccountable special interest groups, mostly liberal, who have concentrated their control over what voters see and hear. Other voices have been muzzled, which is why U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia called the failure to strike down the law "a sad day for freedom of speech."

I commend to your attention this George Will column published in the Washington Post on February 22.

RENDERING POLITICS SPEECHLESS

(By George F. Will)

Two years ago President Bush, who had called it unconstitutional, signed the McCain-Feingold bill—furtively, at 8 a.m. in the Oval Office. The law expanded government restrictions on political speech, ostensibly to combat corruption or the "appearance" thereof. Bush probably signed it partly because the White House, thinking corruptly or appearing to do so, saw reelection advantage in this fiddling with the First Amendment.

And partly because the nation's newspaper editorial writers nearly unanimous in praise

of McCain-Feingold. The editorialists' advocacy of McCain-Feingold could appear corrupt: The bill increases the political influence of unregulated newspaper editorializing relative to increasingly restricted rival voices (parties, candidates and their financial supporters).

Last December the Supreme Court found no serious constitutional infirmity in the law because, although the Constitution says Congress shall make "no law" abridging freedom of speech, Congress has broad latitude to combat corruption or its appearance. There is the appearance of corruption when a legislator's views attract contributions from like-minded people, and then he acts in accordance with his and their views.

Today McCain-Feingold itself does not just appear to be corrupting. It is demonstrably and comprehensively so.

Most campaign money is spent on speech—disseminating ideas, primarily by broadcasting. McCain-Feingold's stated premise was that there is "too much" money in politics—hence, it follows, too much speech. McCain-Feingold's prudently unstated premise was that legislators know—and should legislate—the correct quantity of speech about themselves, the proper times for it and certain restrictions on the content of it.

Such legislating may not be corrupt, but it might appear so. And appearances are the essence of ethics, as understood by Washington's ethics industry.

Perhaps the White House embraced McCain-Feingold because it doubled to \$2,000 the permissible ceiling on "hard money" contributions crucial to the president's reelection campaign. Also, Republican national committees do better than their Democratic counterparts at raising smaller hard-dollar contributions.

Supposedly, the principal purpose of McCain-Feingold was to ban large "soft money" contributions to the parties ostensibly for "party-building" purposes. The delusional assumption of many McCain-Feingold enthusiasts was that when such contributions were banned, the people who had been eager to exert political influence by such contributions would say "Oh, well" and spend their money instead on high-definition televisions. Or something.

Actually, McCain-Feingold was moral grandstanding by many liberals who had no intention of abiding by its spirit—or its letter, for that matter—any more than they had abided by existing campaign finance law. To compensate for Republican advantages in raising strictly limited hard dollars, Democrats quickly formed a slew of committees technically disconnected from the party but allowed to receive unlimited soft dollars.

Allowed, that is, as long as the committees do not spend money "for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office." Under McCain-Feingold, and for 30 years before it, entities that raise and spend money for that purpose are subject to hard-dollar limits.

McCain-Feingold's ban on large soft-money contributions to political parties has spawned many groups, mostly liberal ones, to receive and spend such contributions as surrogates for the parties—groups such as America Coming Together. Ellen Malcolm, ACT's president, says her group aims to increase voter turnout in 17 states crucial to the presidential election in order "to beat George Bush."

It appears that she intends to influence a federal election. Nothing wrong with that. Citizens are supposed to do that. But liberals have been the prime movers in enacting laws against doing so with soft money, which organizations such as ACT exist to receive.

ACT says it "will coordinate with progressive organizations." But it had better not coordinate with the Democratic Party or candidates. There would be nothing morally wrong with such coordination. It should be a fundamental right—indeed, a civic virtue—for groups such as ACT to coordinate with like-minded political parties. But "coordination" is criminal under McCain-Feingold.

House Republicans are now trying to subpoena records of these Democratic groups, merely hoping to have a chilling effect on them. This is disgusting—but Democrats deserve it because they have entangled America's core liberty, political speech, in an ever-thickening web of regulations they now are evading.

On Wednesday the Federal Election Commission, which is now in charge of deciding what speech is legal under McCain-Feingold and Supreme Court ambiguities, issued a ruling—many more to follow—of exquisite opacity. The chairman of the Republican National Committee said it "effectively shuts down" groups such as ACT and others. A spokesman for ACT cheerily said the group would continue "to operate robustly and effectively." It is a constitutional obscenity that no one now knows—or, pending many more FEC and court rulings, can know—what political speech is legal in this nation where the First Amendment is no longer even pertinent to protecting such speech.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA THROUGHOUT ITS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana throughout its 50 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. As the citizens of Lake County, Indiana celebrate the 50th Year Jubilee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, we are reminded of the dedication and valiant efforts that have been made to incorporate education and community leadership in the region.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana began in the early 1950's when Mr. Paul Guist, Mr. Sid Holub, Mr. Robert Salvaggi and several other Gary businessmen decided that the children of Gary needed a place to go, complete with worthwhile activities, to help keep kids from spending time on street corners. Their efforts led to the incorporation of the Steel City Boys Club of Gary, Indiana on August 17, 1954.

The Boys Club was incorporated in 1954 when it operated in the hallways, auditorium, gymnasium and one room in the old Beveridge School in Tolleston. Its official name became Steel City Boys Club. In 1956, another club opened in the Webster School Gym located in Glen Park. This was the year that the organization also became a United Way Agency. An additional club eventually moved into the basement of the Assyrian Church where it remained until a permanent location at 7th and Adams was established through the efforts of Mr. John Will Anderson of the Anderson Company. Through Mr. An-

derson's gift, the Old Moose Lodge building at 7th and Adams was purchased in 1965. Mr. Anderson and the Anderson Company donated the money and manpower to see that the building was completely renovated and ready for operation in October, 1967. The New Boys Club facility officially opened on October 23, 1967, appropriately dedicated as the John Will Anderson Boys Club.

Another Boys Club was opened in 1969 in the Salesian Prep School in Cedar Lake, and in November, 1976 that club moved to West 133rd Avenue. In 1982, the new Cedar Lake Club was built on Fairbanks Street where it remains today. In 1973, Katherine House and the East Chicago Boys Club merged to form the East Chicago-Katherine House Boys Club and became a unit of the Steel City Boys Club organization. In 1976, the John Will Anderson Club moved to the former Young Men's Christian Association building on 5th Avenue in Gary where it remains today. In 1977, the Steel City Boys Club corporate name was changed to the Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana. In March of 1979, the Hammond Boys Club was established in the Miller School of Hessville, and today a new building built in 1994 proudly stands on Calumet Avenue. The Lake Station Club was opened in July of 2001.

In 1988, Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana officially changed its name to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana—as girls were recognized as official club members. In spite of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana's growth and changes, their philosophy has never changed—to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, as well as its staff and community leaders on their 50th anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and service to Lake County, Indiana will forever be cherished and commended.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary African-American men and women, past and present, who have shaped the rich history of our Nation.

The month of February has been designated as Black History Month to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history. This year's national theme, "Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary," commemorates the historic Supreme Court decision declaring that segregation had no place in the laws of a free republic.

Over 50 years ago, in the Midwest town of Topeka, KS, a little girl named Linda Brown rode a bus 5 miles to school each day even though a public school was located only four blocks from her house. The school was not full and the little girl met all of the requirements to

attend—except for the color of her skin. It is hard to imagine that merely 50 years ago, public schools across our country were deeply segregated.

A team of brave lawyers from the NAACP would later appear before the Supreme Court to demand the justice contained within our founding principles—to demand equality for young Linda Brown and for all who had been denied the basic right of equality for far too long.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court spoke unanimously and with great clarity when it declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." This decision continues to have an impact on our country today. Just last year, the Supreme Court upheld the core principles of Brown v. Board when it ruled that maintaining diversity in higher education is a compelling governmental interest. I was pleased to join other Members of Congress in filing an amicus brief with the Court expressing our belief that democratic values are enhanced by the interaction between students of diverse backgrounds and indicating our full support for the efforts of universities to create a more vibrant and enriching learning environment.

The decision in Brown v. Board would also forever change the landscape of the struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States and demonstrate the ability of individuals to effect true change. The congressional district that I represent can certainly recognize the ability of individuals to break through color barriers. Growing up in Pasadena in the early to mid-1900s, a young man named Jackie Robinson was an all-around athlete that would later change the sports world. Robinson won letters in football, baseball, basketball, and track at Pasadena's Muir Technical High School and Pasadena Junior College. Soon after, he would become the first athlete at UCLA to play on four varsity teams.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson would take the field to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers—a pioneer as the first African-American to play major league baseball. Robinson not only opened the door to pro sports for other African-American athletes, but his remarkable accomplishment would help chip away at prejudices in the minds of Americans and jumpstart the process of dismantling existing barriers throughout our society.

In this month of February, let us not only celebrate the accomplishments of those brave Americans who fought for racial justice, but let us work to keep their vision alive by continuing to break down barriers that exist and working to ensure equality of opportunity for all Americans.

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gaylord Entertainment on their successful completion of the marvelous new Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center on Lake Grapevine ideally located in Grapevine, TX. The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center will be tremendous venue for performances by local and national entertainers.